

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

**IRVINE VALLEY LOCAL COMMITTEE – 1 FEBRUARY 2006
SAFER STREETS
STRATHCLYDE POLICE REPORT**

**Report by Superintendent Elizabeth Weir
Sub Divisional Officer
East Ayrshire**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To advise Local Committee Members of Crime Figures and Police activity within their area. Community Constables will continue to report to their respective Community Councils with more detailed information. This meeting will also provide an opportunity for members to provide feedback to Strathclyde Police on areas of concern and to have these concerns addressed.

2. CRIME TRENDS

- 2.1.1** The following crime statistics relate the area of East Ayrshire Beat 40 which relates to Hurlford, Crookedholm, Moscow, Galston, Newmilns, Darvel and Prestland.

- 2.1.2** They cover the period from 1 April 2005 to 30 November 2005.

	Crimes of Violence	House breaking to homes	House breaking to garages and sheds	House breaking to Commercial premises, Schools etc.	Vehicle crime	Drugs Possession and Supply
April 2004- Nov 2004	138	17	6	18	29	64
April 2005 – Nov 2005	109	9	6	7	28	50

- 2.1.3** Through high visibility policing and good work from various departments within the police there has been an overall reduction in the number of housebreakings within the Irvine Valley area. There has been a slight decrease in vehicle related crime. Drugs detections for dealing have increased which has had an impact on the number of persons being

reported for possession of drugs. These detections are as a direct result of proactive work by the police.

- 2.1.4 The detection rate for group 1 – 7 crimes (all crimes and offences) in the Irvine Valley area is currently running at 63%, which is an extremely favourable detection rate.
- 2.1.5 The Ayrshire Division Control Strategy for 2005 – 2006 focuses on Violent Crime, Acquisitive Crime, Vandalism and Anti Social behaviour. Efforts over the next year will impact positively on the above figures.

3. OVERVIEW ON ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

- 3.1.1 Disorder offences, defined by the Scottish Executive as Breach of the Peace, Urinating in Public, Drunk and Incapable and Consumption of Alcohol in a Public Place.
- 3.1.2 Disorder offences fell from 92 to 59 within the designated period. This decrease is largely due to the amount of proactive policing within the Irvine Valley area.
- 3.1.3 Vandalism fell from 165 to 120 within the designated period.
- 3.1.4 Targeted patrols are continuing to have a positive effect that is being complemented by the work carried out by out community officers in all schools, youth clubs and organisations. These inputs are designed to encourage Good Citizenship and Positive Behaviour, while discouraging disorder, drunkenness and vandalism.
- 3.1.5 Partnership working is producing results on a number of fronts, and recent collaboration on Acceptable Behaviour Contracts is having a positive impact throughout the valley.
- 3.1.6 The Antisocial Behaviour Unit and police coordinator have been working at a pace gathering information and intelligence. They are presently pursuing Anti Social Behaviour Orders.

4 CHANGES TO POLICE SERVICE DELIVERY

- 4.1.1 At present Strathclyde Police is undergoing a major change programme that will significantly improve our service to the public. The following is a brief outline some of the projects and provides updated information in relation to the timescale. To enhance the service within East Ayrshire additional Community Police officers will be appointed and a mobile police

office will replace the closure of certain police offices that are no longer required given the impact of the abovementioned improvements.

- 4.1.2 Airwave Radio:** Within Ayrshire the project will “go live” on or about 8th March 2006. This digital system provides enhanced coverage, clarity and security and is the foundation for further development within communications including telephony and mobile data. Every officer will be issued with a personal handset capable of contacting anyone on the extended police network in the UK. This will require increased security measures, which, cannot be done at the smaller offices.
- 4.1.3 Contact Centre:** The new Contact Centres will take all calls for Ayrshire from March 2006. This will mean that wherever a caller is, whatever number they dial the call will be diverted to a contact centre and will be answered quickly and professionally by trained and competent staff who will be able to deal with the calls efficiently. This will put an end to the current frustrations when trying to call an individual police office and receiving the message “you are being held in a queue and will be answered shortly”. As this will increase the workload the structures need to be in place to deal with this but it will also provide a more accurate picture of the problems and issues affecting the communities.
- 4.1.4 Area Control Room:** There is currently a police control room within East Ayrshire based at Kilmarnock. In March 2006 this will be replaced by an Area Control Room at Force Headquarters, Pitt Street, Glasgow. This will release staff locally for operational deployment and will provide a greater link to the Contact Centres.
- 4.1.5 Divisional Call Handling Unit:** This Unit has been operational at Ayr police office since September 2005 and takes calls from the public on police matters. This directly reduces the demand on busy officers and the public feedback from this Unit has been very positive.
- 4.1.6 Community Police Officers:** Community Police officers have been able to forge excellent local relationships with Councillors, Community Councils, Residents Associations and other. These officers deal with local issues in conjunction with other services and this is true partnership working in action. All Community officers work closely with the wardens, anti-social behaviour investigative teams and others to provide long-term solutions to problems.
- 4.1.7 Mobile Police Office:** A mobile police office has recently arrived in East Ayrshire. The Sub Divisional Officer, Superintendent Weir, has developed a schedule for the mobile office and parking places have been devised to meet the needs of the local communities.

4.1.8 Police Offices: Inspection reports have been received and recommend closure of some of the smaller offices. Many of these offices are in a poor state of repair. By closing smaller offices substantial revenue savings can be achieved which will then be directed towards further service improvements. The following police offices will close on 1st February 2006:

Muirkirk
Newmilns
Darvel
New Cumnock
Mauchline

The provision of the mobile office will be in place by this time and there will be no detrimental effect.

4.1.9 Conclusions: The changes and developments will lead to improvements in service delivery and provide East Ayrshire with a structure to face the challenges that lie ahead. Strathclyde Police is committed to tackling crime and criminals effectively in East Ayrshire and plays a leading role in making East Ayrshire safe. Updates will be provided to the local media to ensure they have accurate information and also the opportunity to report these changes.

5 LOCAL IMPACT

5.1.1 The changes referred to above will have a positive effect on the policing of the Irvine Valley. Police response to calls from the public will be much improved through technically advanced call handling and communications systems.

5.1.2 New call centres will ensure that every enquiry is dealt with quickly and appropriately, either via Area Control Room where a priority response is required, or the Divisional Call Handling Unit where advice and assistance will be provided on lower level matters.
The advantages of the new Airwave communication system will mean increased efficiency, security and safety of officers working both locally and nationally.

5.1.3 The Irvine Valley Communities will also benefit from the introduction of a mobile police office, which will make regular visits to villages which do not have a permanent police presence. This will provide an opportunity to meet community officers, get advice, or hand in found property etc. The unit will have other functions, and can for instance serve as a temporary base for officers patrolling within that community.

5.1.4 These are major changes, designed to significantly improve the quality of service we provide to the public, and as such will enhance policing in the Irvine Valley.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1.1 It is recommended that the Committee: -

- i) identify any local problems which may be addressed by local officers; and
- ii) otherwise note the content of this report.

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.

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